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4002/005

Docket No. END0887USCIP1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	:	Kevin Doll et al.	Customer No.: 00027777
Serial No.	:	10/687,503	Art Unit: Not 3721
Filed	:	October 15, 2003	Examiner: Gloria Weeks
For	:	SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING A SINGLE LOCKOUT MECHANISM FOR PREVENTION OF FIRING	

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on July 18, 2006. USPTO facsimile telephone number 571-273-9900

Kimberly M. Moses

Name of person signing the Certificate



(Signature)

October 23, 2006

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

In accordance with § 1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national

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application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with the first or second After Final Submission, therefore:

Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or
 Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of
\$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

Statement in Accordance with §1.97(c) (attached); or
 Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of
\$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

Copies of each of the non-US references are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:

- In view of the voluminous nature of references [list as appropriate], and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner, copies are not enclosed herewith.
- If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.
- Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2).
- There are no listed references which are not in the English language.
- The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:
- Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.
- Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/END0887USCIP1/DLG.

Respectfully submitted,

/Dean L. Garner/
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Substitute for form 1449A/PT9

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	10/687,503
Filing Date	10/15/2003
First Named Inventor	Thomas W. Huitema
Group Art Unit	3734
Examiner Name	Kevin Doli et al.
Attorney Docket Number	END0887USC1P1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached *Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents*. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450